

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method for managing communications over a plurality of devices connected to a network, the method comprising:

sending, by a first user device in said network, a first directed, one to one communication to a second user device in said network over a secure communication channel established between said first user device and said second user device using a first type of communication medium, the first type of communication medium being a point-to-point medium; and

configuring, by said first user device via said secure communication channel, a use of a second type of communication medium, different from said first type of communication medium, by at least said second user device, the second type of communication medium being a shared medium, wherein said configuring enables said second user device to broadcast messages to a third device in said network over said shared medium in a manner that allows said messages to be heard by other devices in said network within range of said second user device and said third device, wherein said configuring includes sending, by the first user device, a first contract to the second user device and a second contract to the third device, the first contract and the second contract together specifying one or more terms that properties and contents of said messages must satisfy in order to be exchanged between said second user device and said third device over said shared medium.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said configuring comprises:

 sending, by said first user device, a second communication to said third device over said shared medium.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said second user device initiates said first communication.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein at least one of: said first user device and said second user device is a personal computing device.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said personal computing device is at least one of: a personal digital assistant, a tablet computer, a laptop computer, a mobile phone, a handheld gaming device and a picoradio.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said third device is a network resource.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said network resource is at least one of: a printer, a projection display, a robot, a scanner, a facsimile machine and a data collection device.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said third device is part of a wired communications network.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said second user device is part of a wireless communication network.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said point-to-point medium is at least one of: an infrared communications network and a radio frequency

communications network.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said first communication grants said second user device a capability to perform a specified action in accordance with said shared medium.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said configuring comprises:

providing data to said second user device to enable said second user device to connect to said shared medium.

35. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, the plurality of instructions including instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of a method for managing communications over a plurality of devices connected to a network, the method comprising:

sending, by a first user device in said network, a first directed, one to one communication to a second user device in said network over a secure communication channel established between said first user device and said second user device using a first type of communication medium, the first type of communication medium being a point-to-point medium; and

configuring, by said first user device via said secure communication channel, a use of a second type of communication medium, different from said first type of communication medium, by at least said second user device, the second type of communication medium being a shared medium, wherein said configuring enables said second user device to broadcast messages to a third device in said network over said shared medium in a manner that allows said messages to be heard by other devices in said network within range of said second user device and said third device, wherein said configuring includes sending, by the first user device, a first contract to the second user device and a second contract to the third device, the first contract and the second

contract together specifying one or more terms that properties and contents of said messages must satisfy in order to be exchanged between said second user device and said third device over said shared medium.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 35, wherein said configuring comprises:

sending, by said first user device, a second communication to said third device over said shared medium.

38. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 35, wherein said second user device initiates said first communication.

39. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 35, wherein at least one of: said first user device and said second user device is a personal computing device.

40. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 39, wherein said personal computing device is at least one of: a personal digital assistant, a tablet computer, a laptop computer, a mobile phone, a handheld gaming device and a picoradio.

41. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 35, wherein said third device is a network resource.

42. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 41, wherein said network resource is at least one of: a printer, a projection display, a robot, a scanner, a facsimile machine and a data collection device.

43. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 35, wherein said third device is part of a wired communications network.

44. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 35, wherein said second user device is part of a wireless communication network.

45. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 35, wherein said point-to-point medium is at least one of: an infrared communications network and a radio frequency communications network.

46. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 35, wherein said first communication grants said second user device a capability to perform a specified action in accordance with said shared medium.

47. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 35, wherein said configuring comprises:

providing data to said second user device to enable said second user device to connect to said shared medium.